

HOUSE BILL 1526

By Crawford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16;  
Title 17; Title 25; Title 36; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39  
and Title 40, relative to the Gabby Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, is amended by adding  
the following as a new part:

**38-6-301. Short title.**

This part is known and may be cited as the "Gabby Act."

**38-6-302. Part definitions.**

As used in this part, "local law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established  
local public agency that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime.

**38-6-303. Domestic violence and child abuse task force established.**

(a) There is created the domestic violence and child abuse task force of the  
Tennessee bureau of investigation.

(b) The task force is authorized to investigate matters pertaining to:

- (1) Domestic abuse, as defined in § 36-3-601;
- (2) Domestic assault, as defined in § 39-13-111;
- (3) Child abuse and child neglect or endangerment, as defined in § 39-  
15-401;
- (4) Aggravated child abuse and aggravated child neglect and  
endangerment, as defined in § 39-15-402; or
- (5) Child sexual abuse, as defined in § 37-1-602.

(c) The task force shall assist a local law enforcement agency that requests assistance regarding a case involving offenses described in subsection (b) by:

- (1) Setting deadlines for the local law enforcement agency;
- (2) Providing resources and surveillance; and
- (3) Conducting additional witness interviews.

(d) Tennessee bureau of investigation shall cover the cost of development and implementation of the domestic and child abuse task force by utilizing existing resources.

**38-6-304. Local law enforcement agency request.**

(a) A local law enforcement agency shall request assistance from the domestic violence and child abuse task force on a case involving offenses described in 38-6-303(b) if:

- (1) An arrest warrant issued in relation to the case is unable to be served within seventy-two (72) hours; or
- (2) A search warrant issued in relation to the case is unable to be served within five (5) days.

(b) The local law enforcement agency shall make available to the domestic violence and child abuse task force documentation and evidence related to the case, including the identities and locations of witnesses or involved parties.

(c) If the domestic violence and child abuse task force assists with a case pursuant to this section, then the local law enforcement agency shall create, in coordination with the task force, a reasonable, accurate, confidential, and available source of information for the victim. The local law enforcement agency may also recommend or provide resources to the victim as the agency deems necessary.

(d) A local law enforcement agency shall cover the cost of implementing this section by utilizing existing resources.

SECTION 2. The headings to sections in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 3. For purposes of establishing the domestic violence and child abuse task force, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.